

HAYZEL B. DANIELS SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR VAL-  
DEMAR CORDOVA WILLIAM REHNQUIST LORNA  
LOCKWOOD FRANCIS X. GORDON THOMAS TANG  
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# LEGENDS OF THE JUDICIARY



*A Seven Video Retrospective on Arizona's Proud Judicial Tradition*



# A Tradition of *Progress*

DANIELS

Arizona's judicial history echoes the pioneering spirit of the first American settlers to break ground in her fertile soil. Though barely a century old, it is an epic story of individuals blazing a trail through seemingly insurmountable obstacles, all in the pursuit of one unifying goal...a better life not only for themselves, or their families, but for *all* Arizonans.

LOCKWOOD

TANG

Join us in a celebration of the lives of seven prominent members of Arizona's judiciary. Learn about the impact their careers have had on not only Arizona's government, but that of the entire nation. The Committee on Judicial Education and Training (COJET) and the Education Services Division offer a look into the lives of Hons. Hayzel B. Daniels, Lorna Lockwood, Thomas Tang, Valdemar Cordova, William Rehnquist, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Francis X. Gordon., in a compelling video series produced and directed by Hon. Wendy Morton.

CORDOVA

REHNQUIST

The series is available online in the Video Center of the Education Services Division's section of the [azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov) website. Simply go to [www.azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov) and enter the words "Video Center" in the search field in the upper right-hand corner.

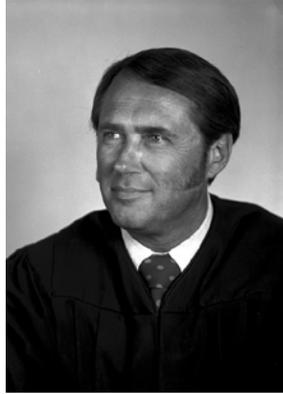
O'CONNOR

The link will take you to the Division's Video Center, where you'll find links to view these videos online.

GORDON

**A Tradition of Progress  
A History of Excellence**

# A History of *Excellence*



"Legends of the Supreme Court"  
(Frank X. Gordon, Jr., born January 9, 1929, in Chicago, Illinois.)

Served as Associate Justice of Arizona Supreme Court from 1975 to 1987,  
and Chief Justice 1987 to 1992.

Francis X Gordon Jr. was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 9, 1929 to Lucille G. Gordon and Frank X. Gordon. When he was six months old, his mother brought him to Kingman to join her husband, who, following his legal career in Chicago, had established a title insurance business there.

Kingman at that time was a very small town, about 1,500 or 2,000 people, who primarily supported the many thriving mines, cattle ranches and farms operating in Mohave County in those days. The community was still quite rural back then; the mining companies would use horse and mule wagons to transport the supplies and equipment that arrived in Kingman via the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroads and left, loaded with cattle and farm produce.

Frank Sr. passed the Arizona bar in 1932 and started his law practice primarily in civil matters. He later served on the Arizona Highway Commission and the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Arizona.

For Frank Jr., growing up in Kingman was a wonderful experience. Classic Americana. Baseball in the streets and neighborhoods, sidewalk scooter rides, making model airplanes with friends and flying them in vacant lots around town. Frank Jr. roamed the town day or night without fear... crimes against children were, as yet unheard of and drug crimes were problems of the future. Parents didn't need to worry if their children were out after dark. In fact, Frank Jr. lived a dream most children have... he had his own horse...one that was so gentle he would let Frank Jr. and his friends ride him bareback, even at night. His parents wouldn't worry and would let him take his horse and dog out in the desert for over-night camp outs. In some ways, it was indeed a Norman Rockwell beginning for one of Arizona's most legendary Justices.

Frank Jr. attended Kingman grammar school and, in 1947, graduated from the only high school in the county, Mohave County Union High School. The high school was small, with only about 140 students in total, and included many who traveled as much as 50 miles from all the rural areas surrounding Kingman.

After graduation from high school, Frank left Arizona to attend Stanford University, where, during his first year, he met a young lady from southern Arizona, Sandra Day...later, Sandra Day O'Connor...they were the only Arizonans admitted to Stanford that year and have been fast friends ever since. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Stanford in 1951.

Through a fraternity brother, Frank met his wife Joan Colleen Gipe ("Japay") from Fresno, California. They were married between Frank's third and fourth year at Stanford. Joan worked as a secretary in the Stanford University Engineering Department until Frank graduated. Then, in the fall of 1951, the young couple moved to Tucson, where Frank attended law school at the University of Arizona. Soon thereafter, their first son, Frank X. Gordon, III (Trey) was born. Their second child, Scott Kenneth Gordon (Scotty), was born two years later, in Tucson, and Joan had her hands full taking care of two youngsters while Frank studied hard, graduating with his LLB from the U of A in 1954. Joan was especially busy because Scotty was born with congenital heart defects that ultimately shortened his life at 19 years of age.

After graduating from the University of Arizona Law School and passing the State Bar exam, Frank moved his family to Kingman to join his father in the practice of law in the partnership of Gordon & Gordon, the only law partnership in Mohave County at that time. Their third child, Candy, was born in Kingman soon after.

Incredible as it seems, at that time there were only 5 practicing lawyers in all of Mohave County, including Frank Sr. and Frank Jr. This did not include presiding Judge Charles Elmer, the then sitting Superior Court Judge, and retired Judge Faulkner. At that time, and for several years thereafter, if both Franks walked down the street in Kingman and met one of the other lawyers in town, they had a quorum of the Mohave County Bar present...ready for a meeting.

After eight years of law practice with his father, in May 1962, Governor Paul Fannin appointed Frank as Superior Court Judge in Mohave County. At 33 years of age, he was at that time, the youngest Judge in Arizona.

As time permitted, the young Judge Gordon would hear matters in other counties in Arizona and over the 13 years he served as Superior Court judge, he heard cases in 12 of the then 14 Arizona counties. Judge Gordon was the only Superior Court Judge in Mohave County for 10 of the 13 years he served there... eventually, the population increased sufficiently so as to create a second Mohave County court division.

The comparatively light judicial calendars that existed in those days in northern Arizona allowed Judge Wren from Coconino County, Judge Greer from Apache County, Judge Ogg from Yavapai County and Judge Gordon to frequently hear difficult cases in Maricopa and Pima Counties...so much so, that they became known as the "Traveling Judges" ... their motto was "Have Gavel, Will Travel."

Traveling to hear cases in other counties gave Judge Gordon the opportunity to get a lot of trial experience in cases he normally would not have heard in Mohave County...as well as the opportunity to see how Presiding Judges handled administrative matters for their courts. In doing so, he developed friendships with almost all the superior court judges in Arizona, which later became a great benefit in helping them address issues and solve problems, when he later served as Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

In 1975, Governor Raul Castro appointed Judge Gordon to the Arizona Supreme Court. Justice Gordon was the first appellate court judge appointed under the new Constitutional Merit Selection process created the year before. With that appointment, Frank X. Gordon Jr. became the first Mohave County lawyer to, not only serve on our highest court, but also, to become the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

While serving 17 years as Justice on the Supreme Court, including 5 years as Chief Justice, Justice Gordon authored or participated in hundreds of opinions. History, lawyers and law professors will decide the historical significance of those decisions, or whether they were fairly, justly and correctly decided.

Most Arizonans will no doubt remember Chief Justice Gordon's exemplary service in presiding over the Impeachment Trial of Governor Evan Mecham in the spring of 1988. The TV cameras were everywhere, yet the fair and impartial way in which he handled those one-of-a-kind proceedings makes him one of the most admired public officials in Arizona history...many urged him to run for Governor that following year, but he politely declined and stepped aside from all the publicity. It wasn't in his nature.

I had the good fortune to serve as his Law Clerk the year after the impeachment. What a wonderful experience that was. Justice Gordon selected me from dozens of applicants from Arizona and across the nation and I was thrilled with the opportunity. It was often long and tedious work reviewing stacks of trial transcripts, appellate briefs and mountains of case law. Following his instructions and guidance, I'd prepare bench memos and work on opinion drafts for his critical review and analysis. It was a great learning experience that provided a foundation to my career as a lawyer. Justice Gordon has been a terrific mentor to me and I am grateful for all his help and support throughout my career.

After 18+ years since his retirement from the court in 1992, and looking back on his service as a Supreme Court Justice, Justice Gordon feels he did his best job, and got the most enjoyment from, dealing with the challenges of improving Arizona's court administration, rather than, the day to day appellate work of reading endless briefs and researching and writing opinions. He is thankful for the great help and support he received from his outstanding Court Administrators, Bill McDonald and David Byers and their staffs.

If he were asked what he personally would like to be remembered for during his service to the State of Arizona, it would be two things: The outcome of the Report of the Commission on the Courts and the establishment of the Supreme Court's "Learn Labs" program, an education program created for juvenile and adult offenders across the state of Arizona. Perhaps only a few of you would now know how these projects began, or what they were originally, but in Justice Gordon's estimation, they've had a lasting positive impact on the people of Arizona.

The Commission on the Courts first began in 1987 or 1988, with the support of all members of the Arizona Supreme Court. The Supreme Court obtained a federal grant to appoint a Commission to evaluate and make recommendations to the Supreme Court on what could be done to make Arizona courts less expensive, less confusing, and more accessible to the people.

The Commission on the Courts consisted of approximately 150 people from all walks of life in Arizona - judges, lawyers, legislators, bankers, law enforcement, doctors, health officials, business

people and many more. They were to compare Arizona's judicial system to that of other states and countries, and report back to the Supreme Court, within 2 years, as to what to do with our court system to make it more understandable, more efficient, more available, and less expensive. The Commission functioned very efficiently, and came up with a 100 page report and 50 specific recommendations. Justice Gordon is proud that, through his support and oversight, legislative action and new court rules accomplished 37 of those recommendations by the time he retired from the Court in 1992.

Secondly, Justice Gordon is most proud of his work in establishing "Learn Labs" across Arizona's correctional system. Justice Gordon was aware that at that time approximately 60 percent of all adults and juveniles then incarcerated in Arizona were functionally illiterate - they could not read above the third grade level. It was obvious that no matter how much time these offenders spent in prisons or detention facilities, without learning to read and write...the most basic of educational skills, most of them, upon release, wouldn't get a decent job, or hold onto any kind of gainful employment, and would instead, eventually return to the courts and the correctional system.

It was then that Dave Byers, Administrative Director of the Courts, learned of an experimental IBM program designed to improve reading skills of the functionally illiterate by using an interesting combination of computers and comic book characters.

With IBM's cooperation and the staff at Catalina High School in Tucson, the Arizona Supreme Court arranged to test the IBM program on juvenile offenders in Pima County, as well as some "at risk" students in the high school. The experiment required 100 hours on the computers, one hour a day, five days a week for 20 weeks. At the end of this test, both IBM and the Supreme Court's staff were amazed to find that, on average, each student had raised their reading level by about 3 years...in less than half of the school year.

IBM offered the Supreme Court a discount on purchasing the computers and program and the Court continued the experiment on both juvenile and adult offenders. Later, other vendors increased the learning program to include lessons from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Supreme Court recognized that making this new resource available to judges...adding the "Learn Lab" program to the conditions of probation normally imposed...that theoretically, the Learn Lab would improve the juvenile or adult's chances of success: getting and keeping employment, and, in the long run, improving that person's self-esteem and maybe keeping them out of prison.

With all that in mind, the Arizona Supreme Court has since purchased and installed 37 "Learn Labs" all over the Arizona. Learn Labs now include programs to improve grade level all the way up to a G.E.D. Three of the Maricopa County Learn Labs are named after Frank X. Gordon Jr. He is very proud of the fact that the Arizona Supreme Court has still kept these learning institutions as a part of its official programs and a necessary Court budget item.

Thousands of offenders in Arizona have taken part in this Learn Labs program and have saved the State of Arizona countless millions in reducing recidivism in our state. Many other states have adopted all or part of this program, with great success.

The impressive development and results of the Learn Labs program did not go unnoticed across the country and in 1991, Justice Gordon was one of 6 individuals honored with special recognition by President George H. W. Bush at the White House. Justice Gordon is very proud of this program and

attends graduation ceremonies in both Pima and Maricopa Counties as often as he can. Hundreds of graduates of all ages, wear caps and gowns for the first time in their lives. His work, his contribution, has made a difference in the lives of thousands. The gratitude and confidence expressed by the top students in their graduation speeches has, at times, brought tears to his eyes.

Justice Gordon will tell you he enjoyed his service in the Court system of Arizona, and he is honored to be considered part of the Arizona Supreme Court's history. To Justice Gordon, we say... thank you, we are honored to have you as part of our court family.